



HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA

UNIT #15237
APO AP 96205-5237

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

11 SEP 2008

FKCC

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: US Forces Korea (USFK) Command Policy Letter #15, Authority and Responsibility for United States-Republic of Korea Status of Forces Agreement (US-ROK SOFA) Issues

1. This policy supersedes Policy Letter #15, 30 Jun 06. It provides my intent regarding staff responsibility for SOFA issues, and remains in effect until specifically rescinded or superseded.
2. Reference. Article XXVIII, Joint Committee, United States-Republic of Korea Status of Forces Agreement, 9 Feb 67, as amended.
3. This policy pertains to all United States military and civilian employees in the Republic of Korea.
4. The US-ROK SOFA governs almost every aspect of stationing US armed forces in Korea. SOFA issues present USFK with unique challenges; there are many players, complex issues, and protracted negotiations. Whether it involves real estate, criminal jurisdiction, the environment, or other topics, the potential for a misstep is high. To reach an appropriate end state, it is important for the US to articulate well-coordinated, unified positions to our ROK ally.
5. The individuals below play a vital role in all SOFA matters:
 - a. The Deputy Commander, USFK serves as US Representative to the US-ROK SOFA Joint Committee, the bilateral consultative body established to implement the SOFA and to determine the "facilities and areas" USFK may use in Korea. As such, he is the single voice for this command on SOFA issues. When required, the Deputy Commander will raise SOFA issues to the Commander, USFK for decision.
 - b. The Deputy Commander, USFK oversees SOFA sub-committees and joint working groups in their efforts to negotiate international agreements under the SOFA. In their capacity as appointed SOFA subcommittee co-chairs, USFK and EUSA principal staff officers report directly to the Deputy Commander.
 - c. The Chief of Staff, USFK supports the Deputy Commander on SOFA issues by coordinating and synchronizing staff actions.

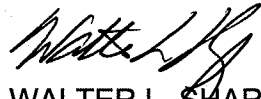
This letter can be found at <http://www.usfk.mil>

FKCC

SUBJECT: US Forces Korea (USFK) Command Policy Letter #15, Authority and Responsibility for United States-Republic of Korea (US-ROK) Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) Issues

d. The Assistant Chief of Staff, J5, USFK serves as Alternate US Representative to the SOFA Joint Committee, and in this capacity reports directly to the Deputy Commander.
6. It is essential that USFK personnel understand the provisions of our SOFA with the Republic of Korea and adhere to its provisions. To review the current SOFA, click on this link: [http://www.usfk.mil/org/fkdc-sa/sofa/2001SOFA%20Revision texts.pdf](http://www.usfk.mil/org/fkdc-sa/sofa/2001SOFA%20Revision%20texts.pdf). Personnel who have questions about the SOFA or its applicability to them or their situation may contact either the office below or their Legal Assistance office.

7. The USFK Point of Contact for SOFA matters is the USFK SOFA Secretariat (FKDC-SA), DSN 723-6046, SOFA@korea.army.mil.



WALTER L. SHARP
General, U.S. Army
Commander

DISTRIBUTION:

A